

**Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP)**  
**Incident Annex XII**  
**Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan**

**LEAD AGENCY:** Division of Emergency Management

**SUPPORTING AGENCIES:** Governor's Office, Agriculture, Local Affairs, Military and Veteran Affairs, Natural Resources, Public Health and Environment, Public Safety, and Transportation.

**I. PURPOSE**

This incident annex has been prepared to facilitate a coordinated response and assign responsibilities by state agencies in support to Pueblo County to a chemical accident at the Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD).

**II. POLICIES**

Title 14, Part B, Section 1412 of Pueblo Law 99-145, which authorizes the Secretary of the Army to provide maximum protection for the environment and destruction of the United States chemical stockpile.

**III. SITUATION**

- A. The continued storage and disposal of the United States unitary chemical stockpile, including that portion stored at the PCD in Pueblo County, Colorado, have the potential for off-site releases that could pose a threat to civilian populations.
- B. In December 1985, congress directed the U. S. Department of Defense (DOD) to destroy the United States stockpile of lethal unitary chemical weapons in such a manner as to provide:
  - 1. Maximum protection of the environment, the public and the personnel involved in the destruction.
  - 2. Adequate and safe facilities designed solely for the destruction of he stockpile
  - 3. Cleanup of the facilities on completion of the disposal program (Public Law 99-145, DOD Authorization Act of 1986).
- C. Chemical Agents at PCD:
  - 1. The chemical agents to be destroyed at the PCD are blister agents, configured in 105 and 155 mm and 4.2-inch projectiles. They are hazardous to humans; the type and extent of hazard is determined

- by the physical and toxicological characteristics of the agent and the extent, route, and duration of the exposure.
2. The blister (or mustard) agents at the PCD include the mustard-derived agents HD and HT. The major toxic chemical in HD [bis(2-chloroethyl) sulfide<sup>a</sup>] is also known as mustard gas, sulfur mustard, or mustard. HT is sulfur mustard that contains about 30% sulfur impurities. HD is the purified chemical from which the impurities have been removed by washing and distillation. HT is an approximate 60%/40% blend of agents. HD and T [bis(2-chloroethylthio) ethyl<sup>a</sup>ether] developed for use as a lethal vesicant mixture. The addition of T and HD creates a form of mustard that has a longer duration of effectiveness and lower freezing point than HD.
  3. The principal health effect of vesicant exposure is blistering the exposed tissues potentially causing severe skin blisters, injuries to the eyes, and damage to the respiratory tract by inhalation of vapors. Because of its chemical properties, mustard agent can react with a variety of tissue constituents including nucleic acids, the genetic material of the cell.
  4. Biological evidence indicates that mustard exposure can result in carcinogenesis. In order of inhalation toxicity, HT is more toxic than HD. Mustard is extremely persistent when isolated from sun, wind, and rain.

#### **IV. ASSUMPTIONS**

- A. See Basic Plan.
- B. See Pueblo Chemical Depot Emergency Operations Plan
- C. See Pueblo County All-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan
- D. See Pueblo County CSEPP Recovery Plan

#### **V. Concept of Operation**

- A. An accident involving the release of chemical agents at the PCD may require personnel living or working within the Immediate Response Zone (IRZ) or Protective Action Zone (PAZ) areas around PCD to take protective actions. The primary protective action options include evacuation (primary) or shelter-in-place (secondary). As the designated emergency response authority, the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management (PCDEM) will direct and assist in planning, emergency response, and recovery activities affecting areas and citizens within its jurisdiction. The Department will direct and control all emergency response operations from the Pueblo County Emergency Operations

Center. The NIMS/ ICS is the standard for all off-site emergency response. PCDEM is responsible for notifying the Colorado Division of Emergency Management (DEM) when it is reported that a chemical agent incident may affect any of the off-site communities around the PCD.

B. DEM will coordinate the applicable state response. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) will be activated and operate whenever it is reported that a chemical agent incident affects, or has the potential to affect, any of the off-site communities around the PCD.

C. Time Phases of Disaster Operations

1. Preparation Phase. This phase involves the development of a well coordinated and integrated set of state, county and special facility response plans using commonly accepted terminology to identify the various emergency management functions and responsibilities.

2. The off-site plans, procedures, and incident responses are based on the Chemical Event Notification Levels (CENLs) described below:

a. Non-Surety Emergency

(1) Description: An event is likely to occur or has occurred that may be perceived as an emergency or that may be of general public interest but which poses no chemical hazard to on-post personnel or the off-post public.

(2) Notification: The installation notifies the Pueblo County Sheriff's Communications Center located in the Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management (PCDEM). PCSCC and PCDEM will make additional notifications.

b. Limited Area Emergency

(1) Description: Events are likely to occur or have occurred that involve an actual or potential release with chemical effects that are expected to be confined to the chemical limited area. This level will be declared when the predicted chemical agent no-effect dosage does not extend beyond the chemical limited area where the event occurred.

(2) Notification: The installation provides emergency notification to the Pueblo County Sheriff's Communication Center. PCDEM will notify DEM at this level. Additional notifications will be made as appropriate.

(3) Action: Emergency response officials go to a level of enhanced readiness in case an off-post response is

required. The Pueblo County EOC will be activated, as appropriate.

c. Post-Only Emergency

- (1) Description: Events are likely to occur or have occurred that involve actual or potential release with chemical effects beyond the chemical limited area. Releases are not expected to present a danger to the off-post public. This level will be declared when the predicted chemical agent no-effect dosage extends beyond the chemical limited area but does not extend beyond the installation boundary.
- (2) Notification: The installation provides emergency notification to the Pueblo County Sheriff's Communication Center. PCDEM will notify DEM. DEM will notify other state and federal agencies, as appropriate. The installation may recommend precautionary protective actions.
- (3) Action: Response organizations mobilize to be capable of immediate actions. Precautionary protective actions may be initiated in potentially affected areas near the installation boundary.

d. Community Emergency

- (1) Description: Events are likely to occur or have occurred that can be expected to present a danger to the public beyond the installation boundary. This level will be declared when the predicted chemical agent no-effects dosage extends beyond the installation boundary.
- (2) Notification: The installation will provide emergency notification to the Pueblo County Sheriff's Communication Center. PCDEM will notify DEM. DEM will notify other state and federal agencies as appropriate. The installation will recommend protective actions.
- (3) Actions:
  - (a) All response organizations mobilize, and the IRZ and affected PAZ areas implement specified protective actions.
  - (b) The Pueblo County and State EOCs will be activated as needed. PCDEM will be responsible for coordination, direction and control of all county emergency response actions. DEM will provide a State Liaison Officer and additional staff support as required

to the Pueblo County EOC to help coordinate the assistance efforts.

- (c) State agency representatives will report as required to the State EOC in Centennial, Colorado, and be prepared to provide maximum possible assistance to Pueblo County. DEM will coordinate applicable state response and assistance to Pueblo County. Other state and federal assistance will be requested and coordinated by the DEM, as directed by the situation.
- 3. Warning Phase: PCD will initiate warning operations by transmitting a warning message to the Pueblo County Sheriff's Communication Center - 911. The State EOC will be notified by the Pueblo County EOC by phone, fax and/or Web PUFF/D2 PUFF. DEM will notify state and federal agencies as appropriate.
- 4. Response Phase: Upon receipt of a notification message, all concerned jurisdictions and agencies will begin emergency operations. Response operations will be based in the classification levels and the protective action recommendation by the PCD in its warning message.

## **VI. Responsibilities**

- A. Local Government (Pueblo County)
  - 1. Implement Pueblo County All-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan as appropriate for chemical accidents at Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD).
  - 2. Activate the Pueblo County EOC at the following CENLs: limited area emergency, post only emergency, and community emergency.
  - 3. Assume coordination for emergency response activities from the Pueblo County Emergency Operations Center.
  - 4. Determine appropriate protective actions, with recommendations from PCD/Department of the Army.
  - 5. Notify DEM within 10 minutes of receiving notification from the Depot.
  - 6. Prepare a local "Emergency Declaration", if appropriate.

B. State Government

1. Colorado Division of Emergency Management (DEM)

- a. Activate the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) as needed at the following CENLs: post only emergency and/or community emergency.
- b. Notify appropriate state and federal agencies.
- c. Provide State Liaison Officer and applicable CSEPP staff to the Pueblo County EOC.
- d. Prepare State Emergency Declaration for the governor, if deemed appropriate.
- e. Be prepared to serve as a backup and alternate to the Pueblo County EOC should that facility cease to function, become reduced in functionality, or require such support.
- f. Jointly, with Pueblo County and the Pueblo Chemical Depot, establish and operate a Joint Information Center (JIC) in Pueblo, and if necessary, a satellite JIC in Centennial, Colorado.

2. Department of Agriculture (DAg)

Coordinate with local extension agents, producers, CDPHE and EPA to assess potential impacts on agriculture and implement appropriate measures.

3. Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)

Manage the emergency response cash fund, as provided for in 29-22-106 CRS.

4. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA)

Provide National Guard personnel and equipment, when activated by the governor, to assist in evacuation and recovery operations as needed.

5. Department of Natural Resources (DoNR)

State Engineer - In cases of water contamination from chemical agents, assist the CDPHE in directing the operations of threatened water users.

6. Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
  - a. Assess the public health aspects of contamination in the affected area.
  - b. Monitor medical facility resources, including pharmaceuticals and biomedical equipment.
  - c. Provide technical input on decontamination and restoration activities following a release.
  - d. Approve methods of disposal for contaminated waste following a release.
7. Colorado State Patrol (CSP), Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Assist local law enforcement agencies with evacuation, traffic control hazardous material response, monitoring, and other emergency response/law enforcement operations, as appropriate.
8. Department of Transportation (CDOT)

Provide personnel and equipment to assist in keeping major transportation arteries clear during evacuations - to include debris removal.
9. Other State Agencies

Provide support as requested by the Division of Emergency Management.

#### C. Federal Government

1. United States Army (upon request of State Government)
  - a. Detection and decontamination of affected off-site areas around PCD.
  - b. Assist in the treatment of off-site casualties, to include health care personnel trained in the treatment of chemical agent casualties.
  - c. Notification to State and Pueblo County EOCs when areas affected by chemical agents are deemed safe for re-entering.
2. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region VIII

- a. Assist the state and Pueblo County in developing off-post emergency plans, upgrading community response capabilities, and conducting necessary training.
  - b. Develop CSEPP standards and evaluation criteria.
  - c. Assist the State/Pueblo County in developing, scheduling, and conducting exercises to evaluate CSEPP effectiveness at each site.
  - d. Administer funding for the Colorado CSEPP through the Comprehensive Cooperative Agreement (CCA).
- 3. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region VIII
  - a. Assist with detection and decontamination of off-site areas, as requested.
  - b. Assist the Army/State Officials in determining when areas affected by chemical agents are deemed safe for re-entering.
- 4. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Denver-Hub, Airway Sector Office, Denver, Colorado

Coordinate air traffic restriction and/or any other air traffic emergency response actions involving the Pueblo Airport, with FAA's Pueblo Sector Field Office 1, located in Pueblo, Colorado.